

INSIGHTS

April 2011

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Economic Indicators

April 2011

	United States	S.C.
Labor Force	153,421,000	2,152,855
Employed	139,674,000	1,942,254
Unemployed	13,747,000	210,601
Unemployment Rate	9.0%	9.8%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	S.C.
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 953.44	\$ 720.29
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.4	42.9
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 23.60	\$ 16.79

Job Growth (Year Over Year)

	% Change
Charleston MSA	1.59%
Columbia MSA	-0.29%
Greenville MSA	1.15%
Myrtle Beach MSA	3.55%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	2011	2010
U.S. Participation Rate	64.2%	65.1%
S.C. Participation Rate	60.6%	61.5%

Employment to Population Ratio

	2011	2010
U.S. Population Ratio	58.4%	58.7%
S.C. Population Ratio	54.7%	54.6%

Taxable Sales

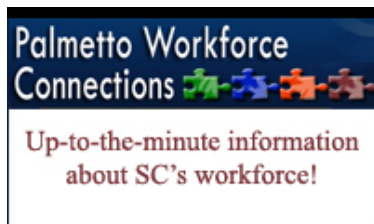
	2011	2010
<i>March data, most current available</i>		
S.C. Net Taxable Sales	\$ 4.308 B	\$ 3.972 B

United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	3.2%
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In the News

Palmetto Workforce Connections has been developed to provide workforce employment news.



View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#).

Employment
2,887



Unemployment
2,432



Unemployment
Rate -0.1%

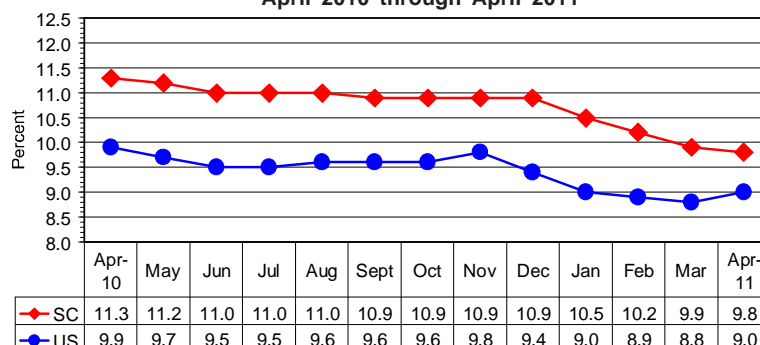


Unemployment Rate Continues to Decline

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined from 9.9% in March to 9.8% for April, reflecting a four month trend of rate declines. This represents a 1.1% decline since December 2010, and a 2% decline since 2009. Current estimates show approximately 210,601 people are unemployed in the state – a steady decline of 34,300 since April 2010.

At the same time, the state has seen eight consecutive months of steady employment increases. In April, estimates show approximately 2,887 people found employment, and the state's labor force expanded to 2,152,855. Year-over-year comparisons show a rise in employment by nearly 19,279 people.

U.S. & S.C. Unemployment Rates
April 2010 through April 2011



Compared to our neighboring states, South Carolina has seen the largest percent rate decline, 1.5%, over the past year. Improvements in Manufacturing; Trade, Transportation & Utilities; and Professional & Business Services have driven this improvement.

Regional Changes in Unemployment Rates

States	Apr. 2011	Mar. 2011	% Change	Apr. 2010	% Change
Florida	10.8	11.1	-0.3	11.3	-0.5
Georgia	9.9	10.0	-0.1	10.1	-0.2
South Carolina	9.8	9.9	-0.1	11.3	-1.5
North Carolina	9.7	9.7	0.0	11.1	-1.4
Tennessee	9.6	9.5	0.1	10.0	-0.4
Virginia	6.1	6.2	-0.1	7.1	-1.0



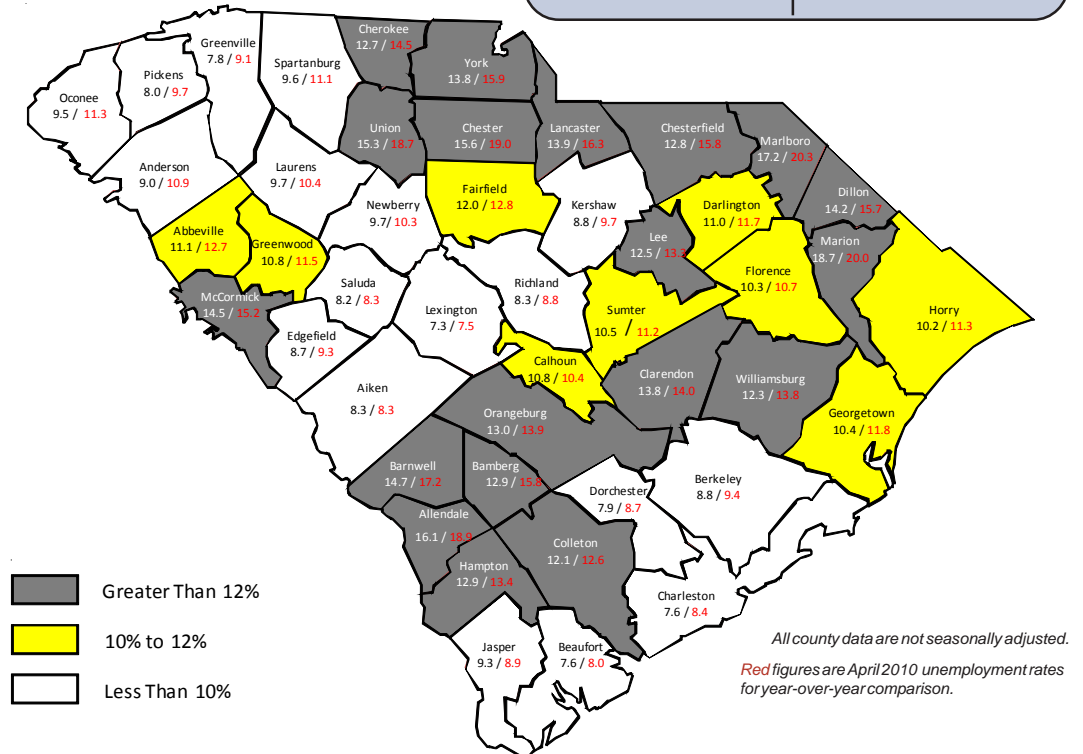
Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2010 benchmark.

April Unemployment Rates by County

Comparing March to April, 14 counties saw rate declines; 10 counties saw no change; and 22 counties saw rate increases. Horry County saw a significant decline of 1.1% due to seasonal hiring. Over the year, Chester, Union, and Marlboro counties have seen the largest rate declines. The greatest employment improvements have been seen in Horry, Anderson, and Beaufort counties.

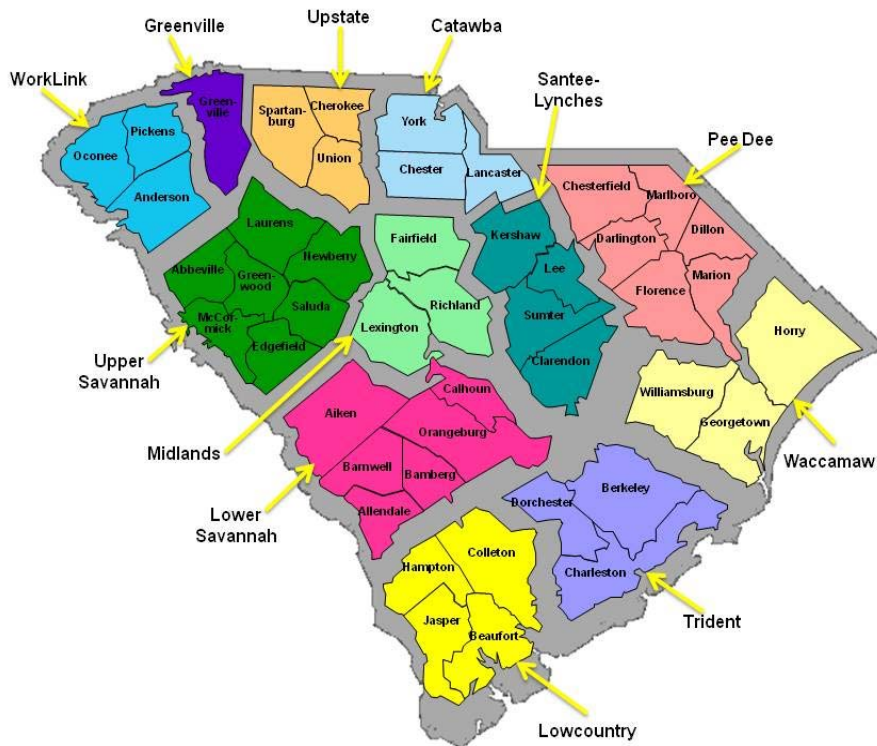
In the near term, counties associated with tourism as a primary economic driver are anticipated to see more improvement than other areas of the state.

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	18.7%	Dorchester	7.9%
Marlboro	17.2%	Greenville	7.8%
Allendale	16.1%	Beaufort	7.6%
Chester	15.6%	Charleston	7.6%
Union	15.3%	Lexington	7.3%



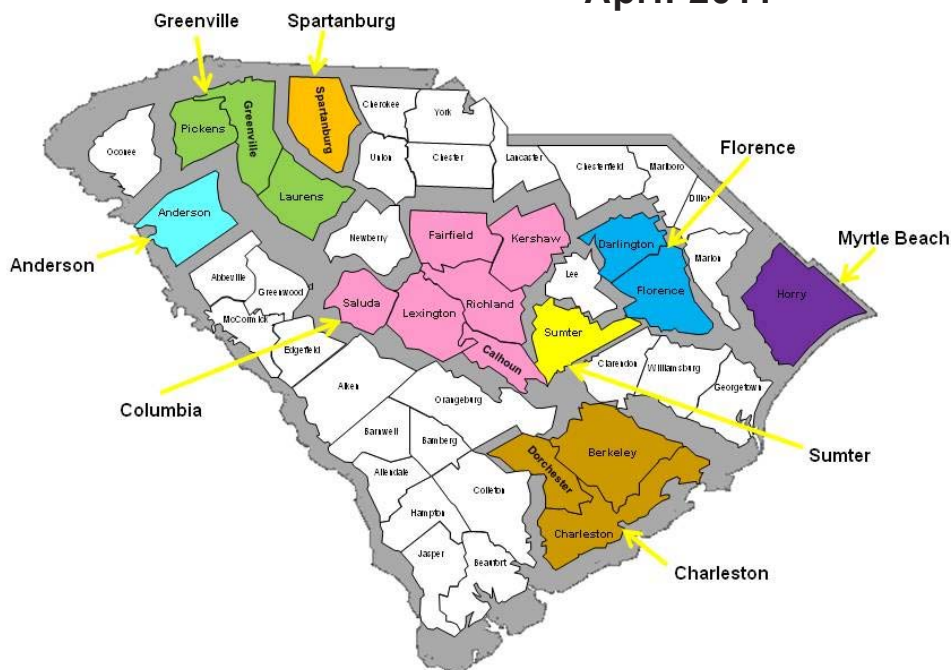
Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed	
	April 2011	April 2010		April 2011	April 2010		April 2011	April 2010
Abbeville	1,194	1,410	Darlington	3,384	3,634	Lee	1,017	1,108
Aiken	6,396	6,490	Dillon	1,917	2,155	Lexington	9,656	10,081
Allendale	517	634	Dorchester	5,071	5,577	Marion	2,303	2,530
Anderson	7,762	9,257	Edgefield	967	1,062	Marlboro	1,981	2,444
Bamberg	805	1,038	Fairfield	1,291	1,396	Mccormick	479	512
Barnwell	1,255	1,533	Florence	6,571	6,867	Newberry	1,743	1,914
Beaufort	4,928	4,998	Georgetown	3,136	3,616	Oconee	2,906	3,532
Berkeley	7,189	7,592	Greenville	17,322	20,406	Orangeburg	5,153	5,780
Calhoun	716	694	Greenwood	3,250	3,541	Pickens	4,521	5,539
Charleston	13,442	14,872	Hampton	1,011	1,059	Richland	14,766	15,967
Cherokee	3,110	3,659	Horry	13,811	15,024	Saluda	732	742
Chester	2,263	2,885	Jasper	962	886	Spartanburg	12,904	14,961
Chesterfield	2,354	3,028	Kershaw	2,581	2,916	Sumter	4,751	5,122
Clarendon	1,764	1,788	Lancaster	4,198	5,069	Union	1,692	2,152
Colleton	2,094	2,183	Laurens	3,121	3,335	Williamsburg	1,943	2,194
						York	15,863	18,565

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) April 2011



Catawba WIA www.catawbacog.org	14.0%
Greenville WIA www.greenvillewib.com	7.8%
Lowcountry WIA www.lowcountryworkforce.org	9.0%
Lower Savannah WIA www.lswia.org	10.5%
Midlands WIA www.midlandsworkforce.org	8.0%
Pee Dee WIA www.peedeewib.org	12.3%
Santee-Lynches WIA www.slworkforcedev.org	10.6%
Trident WIA www.toscc.org	8.0%
Upper Savannah WIA www.us1stops.com	10.0%
Upstate WIA www.upstatewib.org	10.4%
Waccamaw WIA www.wrcog.org	10.5%
Worklink WIA www.worklinkweb.com	8.8%

Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) April 2011



Anderson MSA	9.0%
Charleston- North Charleston- Summerville MSA	8.0%
Columbia MSA	8.1%
Florence MSA	10.5%
Greenville MSA	8.0%
Myrtle Beach- North Myrtle Beach- Conway MSA	10.2%
Spartanburg MSA	9.6%
Sumter MSA	10.5%

South Carolina Industry Direction

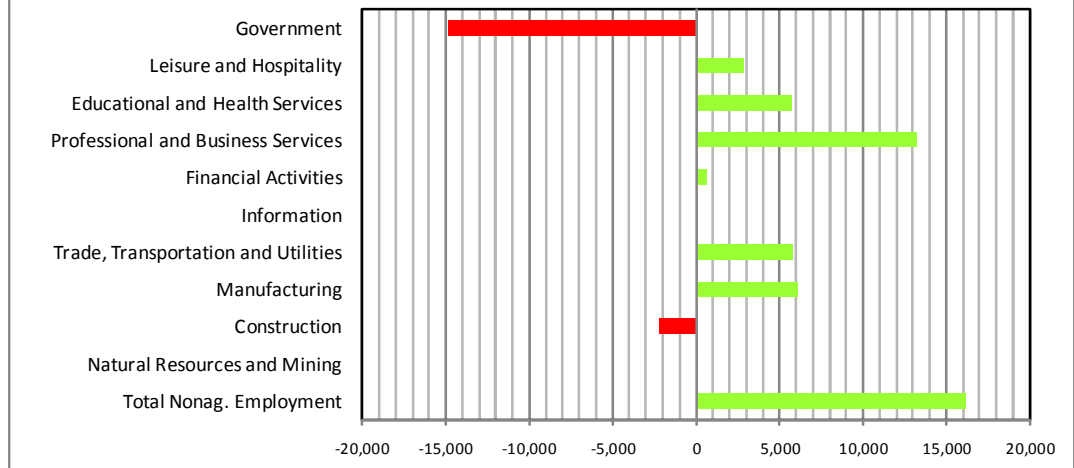
In April, there was an increase of 11,700 nonagricultural jobs (not seasonally adjusted). Industries with the greatest growth were Leisure and Hospitality (6,600), Retail Trade (2,100) and Manufacturing (1,600). With a focus on Manufacturing, despite continued pressure on business expenses, the state's average weekly manufacturing hours have increased by 1.6 hours over the past year to 42.9 hours – an increase of almost 3.9%. At the same time, average hourly manufacturing earnings are up approximately 2.38%.

Of the state's MSAs, Myrtle Beach showed the largest job gains for the second consecutive month (6,400), followed by Charleston (1,800), and Greenville (1,600). Slight gains were also seen in Florence and Anderson.

According to the establishment survey which looks at payroll, since January the state's percent job gains have exceeded the national average by 0.77%, with the U.S. job gains registering at 2.26% and the Palmetto state coming in at 3.03%. Going forward, due to tourism, we expect to see Leisure & Hospitality peak near July, while Educational Services will see a decline as schools break for the summer.

Overall, gradual increases in employment are expected through May and June.

**South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
April 2010 - April 2011**



Industry	April 2011	April 2010	Net Change
Total Nonag. Employment	1,826,000	1,809,900	16,100
Natural Resources and Mining	4,100	4,000	100
Construction	76,600	78,800	-2,200
Manufacturing	212,700	206,600	6,100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	347,600	341,800	5,800
Information	25,700	25,700	0
Financial Activities	97,800	97,200	600
Professional and Business Services	224,800	211,600	13,200
Educational and Health Services	218,500	212,800	5,700
Leisure and Hospitality	213,300	210,500	2,800
Government	337,300	352,100	-14,800

Unemployment Initial Claims Continue to Fall

SC Unemployment Activities

Total Initial Claims	20,999
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$34,022,974
UI Benefits Exhausted	5,626
Avg. Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	16.3
Avg. Wkly. Benefits Amount	\$238.97

Total initial claims for April 2011 were 20,999, which showed a decrease of 1,520 (6.7%) from the previous month, and 4,839 (18.7%) fewer claims than April 2010.

Benefits paid have fallen approximately \$4M since last month, and decreased over \$14M from April a year ago.

**S.C. Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims
April 2010 through April 2011**

